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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 003856
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DRAFTED BY S/NM:RADUGSTAD:SCT
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----------089164 070018Z /61
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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STADIS//////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM FALCO AND ARELLANO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: STAFF SUPPORT FOR NARCOTICS PROGRAM

1. SUMMARY -- WE ARE CONSIDERING THE PROPOSAL OF TWO STEPS THAT WE THINK COULD PROVIDE INCREASED SUPPORT FOR THE EMBASSY IN ITS NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS: (A) ASSIGNMENT OF AN FSO TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR'S FUNCTION ON A TDY BASIS; (B) CHANGE OF THE TITLE OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE AMBASSADOR FOR NARCOTICS MATTERS TO NARCOTICS COUNSELOR. BEFORE PURSUING THESE PROPOSALS IN THE DEPARTMENT WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING YOUR VIEWS.

2. A REVIEW OF THE RECORD SHOWS THAT VARIOUS PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE HERE AND AT THE EMBASSY SINCE 1975 THAT ESSENTIALLY ATTEMPTED TO UPGRADE THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR'S ROLE AT THE EMBASSY AND PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY NUMBER AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 003856

LEVEL OF OFFICERS TO PERFORM THE ROLE OF EMBASSY GUIDANCE AND MANAGEMENT IN THE EXPANDING NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM IN MEXICO.

3. THE JUSTIFICATION FOR INCREASED AND STRENGTHENED STAFF SUPPORT APPEARS TO BE EVEN MORE CRITICAL TODAY AS THE COMMITMENT OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TOWARDS AN ENLARGED NAR-

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COTICS EFFORT HAS INCREASED. MS. FALCO AND DR. ARELLANO

WERE IMPRESSED DURING THEIR DECEMBER VISIT TO THE EMBASSY WITH THE MAGNITUDE OF THE JOINT PLANNING EFFORTS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO REALIZE THE GOALS OF THE NEW "NATIONAL NARCOTICS PLAN." TECHNICAL ADVISERS NEEDED FOR PROGRAM PLANNING CAN BE HANDLED WITHIN EXISTING PERSONNEL RESOURCES OF S/NM, BUT ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING SKILLS WILL BE NEEDED.

4. THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR NARCOTICS IN MEXICO CITY IS RESPONSIBLE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CHIEF OF MISSION AND THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION FOR ASSURING THAT ALL MISSION ELEMENTS EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THEIR PORTIONS OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM IN MEXICO, THE MAJOR SOURCE OF HEROIN REACHING THE U.S. IN ADDITION, AND IN THIS RESPECT MEXICO CITY IS UNIQUE, THE POSITION IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISION OF A NARCOTICS CONTROL GRANT ACTIVITY PROGRAM WHICH IN FY 1977 EXCEEDED DOLS. 13 MILLION. AS THERE IS NO AID MISSION IN MEXICO, HE THEREFORE FULFILLS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN AID MISSION DIRECTOR IN PROGRAM PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING.

5. DESPITE THE RAPID GROWTH OF OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN MEXICO (IT IS NOW THE USG'S LARGEST GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICA), AND REPRESENTS OVER 30 PERCENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

THE TOTAL INC BUDGET, THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT INCREASED THE STAFF DEVOTED TO THIS FUNCTION. THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT HAS A STAFF OF THREE DIRECT-HIRE OFFICERS AND TWO DIRECT-HIRE SECRETARIES, ALL FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT USING MONIES APPROPRIATED UNDER SECTIONS 481 AND 482 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. THEIR DUTIES ARE PRIMARILY TO OVERSEE THE FLOW OF COMMODITIES TO THE PROGRAM. RECENT EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT WE ARE LACKING IN DETAILED PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION, DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT, WHO, FOR LACK OF HELP, HAS BEEN FORCED TO LET THESE IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS SLIDE IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PROGRAM MOVING. POSITION AUDIT NO. 00MX436 DATED JUNE 11, 1977 DEFINES THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSISTANT'S POSITION.

6. WE REALIZE THAT CURRENT STATE PERSONNEL CEILINGS CANNOT SUPPORT AN ADDITIONAL POSITION IN MEXICO CITY. WE PROPOSE AN INTERIM SOLUTION OF ASSIGNING A JUNIOR LEVEL FSO TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE NARCOTICS COORDINATION FUNCTION ON A TDY BASIS OF AN INITIAL 90 DAY PERIOD. THIS WOULD PROVIDE NEEDED STAFF SUPPORT TO THE EMBASSY DURING THE EARLY PERIOD OF 1978 WHEN INTENSIVE EFFORTS ARE NEEDED TO DEVELOP THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S EXPANSION PLANS FOR THE NARCOTICS

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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EFFORT. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING NEED FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT,

WE WOULD HOPE FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF AN ENLARGED PERMANENT STAFF SUPPORT SECTION FOR THE EMBASSY'S NARCOTICS FUNCTION.

7. ADDITIONALLY, WE PROPOSE THAT THE TITLE OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE AMBASSADOR FOR NARCOTICS MATTERS AT THE EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY BE CHANGED TO NARCOTICS COUNSELOR BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM. MR. JOSEPH D. MCLAUGHLIN PRESENTLY FILLS THIS POSITION. MR. MCLAUGHLIN IS PERFORMING SUPERBLY IN A SENSITIVE POSITION OF GIVING NEEDED EMBASSY-WIDE DIRECTION AND COORDINATION OF ALL NARCOTICS MATTERS IN MEXICO. THE CHANGED
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PAGE 04 STATE 003856

POSITION SHOULD CARRY AT LEAST THE FSO-2 LEVEL. SUCH RANK AND TITLE ARE NECESSARY WITHIN THE EMBASSY TO ASSURE THE AUTHORITY NEEDED IN THE MEXICO CITY SITUATION. MR. MCLAUGHLIN HAS MET THE DIFFICULT REQUIREMENTS OF THE JOB TO DATE, USING HIS FORCE OF PERSONALITY AND HIGHLY DEVELOPED TALENT FOR ACHIEVING POLICY AND PROGRAM GOALS THROUGH SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. WE MUST GIVE THE POSITION THE AUTHORITY OF INCREASED RANK AND TITLE THAT IT DESERVES. IT WILL BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR THE CONTINUITY OF MANAGEMENT CONTROL WHEN THE INCUMBENT IS TRANSFERRED.

8. A REVIEW OF THE EXISTING COUNSELOR TITLES AT THE EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY INDICATES THAT THE TITLE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO OTHER POSITIONS, E.G., SCIENCE COUNSELOR, WHOSE DUTIES WOULD APPEAR TO NOT INCLUDE A PROGRAM EQUAL IN IMPORTANCE TO THE JOINT U.S.-GOM NARCOTICS EFFORT. ELEVATING THE POSITION TO THE TITLE OF COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY FOR NARCOTICS MATTERS WOULD SIGNAL TO THE GOM THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. ATTACHES TO THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM.

9. WE WILL APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE PROPOSALS AND MS. FALCO AND DR. ARELLANO LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON YOUR NEXT VISIT. CHRISTOPHER

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